Vol. 3 .Issue 11 November 1996

ABOVE GROUND

Your Source for News & Views in and around the Lehigh Valley

The Valley's Premier Nightclub!

STONEWALL

Intensified Light,
Sound, Video
Dance Bar

Wednesday, Nov 6 **MAXI CARTER** And the Girls Behind the Wall	**Saturday, Nov. 9 & 23** **MICHAEL FERRERI** Performing in The Moose Lounge
Wednesday, Nov 13 **TINSEL GARLAND** With Special Guest	**Wednesday, Nov 20** **CORRINE MICHAELS** Presents VA VA VOOM !
Sunday, Nov 24 **DREAM TEAM** Male Review NO COVER !!	**Wednesday, Nov 27** **Pre-Thanksgiving PARTY** Disco Opens 9PM
Every Monday **All Age Night** 18 Yrs. and Up Disco Only	**Every Sunday** **KARAOKE !** Sing-off Contest on last Sun. every month

THE MOOSE LOUNGE

Restaurant • Piano Bar

photo: ©David Morgan

28 North 10th Street Allentown, PA 610.432.0215

CONTENTS

A Look Back 4
Coming Events 6
IN print 8
Liz out Loud 10
To Your Health 12
Past Out 14
Music 16
Insights 18
Theatre 20
Dykes with Tykes 20
Comics 22
Queer Science 24
Horrorscoops 25
Community Resources 26
Classifieds 27

ABOVE GROUND is published by COBALT BLUE, and released the first week of every month. Advertising copy deadline is the 15th day of the month previous to release date.

ABOVE GROUND makes no indication of the sexual orientation of persons, groups, and organizations mentioned in name or shown in photographs throughout its articles, advertisements, columns and listings.
With exception to the Editor Speaks column, all opinions expressed within **ABOVE GROUND** are those of the author and do not necessarily reflect the views and opinions of **ABOVE GROUND** or Cobalt Blue.
ABOVE GROUND reserves the right to reject, republish, and edit any written material submitted unless otherwise specified in writing prior to its publication. All rights reserved. No part of this publication may be reproduced in any form without the written consent of Cobalt Blue.

e-mail:
abovegrnd@aol.com

ABOVE GROUND
PO Box 1656
Allentown, PA 18105-1656

Editor Speaks

Well, it seems like only yesterday that we were celebrating our 1st Anniversary. Thanks to your ongoing support, AboveGround has just entered it's Third Year of publication.. Over the past twelve months the magazine has grown and evolved. In addition to some changes in appearance, we have added new regular features and columns.

We hope to continually improve AboveGround as we move into the months, and hopefully years, ahead. Write us a letter or e-mail us some time and let us know how we can make YOUR publication better.

And don't forget ... your gay money spent wisely with our advertisers keeps AboveGround coming to you each month. Let them know you appreciate their commitment to our community!

On the Cover

Corrine Michaels earns the title of Miss Stonewall for 1997. Corrine has been seen throughout AboveGround's distribution area at many fund-raisers, pageants and shows. She also holds the 1st alternate title for Miss Gay Pennsylvania America, and has held the title of Miss Diamonz for 1996.

You go Girl! Keep dazzling us!!

ADVERTISER'S INDEX

ANTIQUES, COLLECTIBLES
Liz Bradbury - 25

ATTORNEYS
Steve Black - 18

BARS / NIGHTCLUBS
Cartwheel - 19
Diamonz - 9
Rainbow Mt. - 11
Stonewall - 2, 10, 28

COUNSELING / THERAPY
Jacqueline Marish, M.A. - 25

DOCTORS
Family Health - 25
Dr. I. Rose PhD, MD - 14

FINANCIAL
American Express - 13

MASSAGE THERAPY
Feather - 5
Gary - 5
Laurent - 12
Mike - 5

PETS
Homer Dodge Farm - 20

PRINTING
Rob-Win Press, Inc. - 7

RELIGIOUS AFFILIATIONS
Hope Ministries - 18

RESORTS
Rainbow Mountain Resort - 11

RESTAURANTS & CATERING
Bay Leaf - 24
Goosey Gander - 20
Monterey - 17

THEATRE
Civic Theatre - 21

VIATICAL AGENTS
Bob Muth - 7

MISC. EVENTS
Autumn Tea (MCC) - 8, 15
Holiday Bazaar (ASC) - 7
LGLV Roller Skating - 13
WV AIDS Council (calendars) - 23

The businesses who advertise in AboveGround magazine make it possible to bring it to you each month. Just as they support our community and this publication, we urge you to support their businesses and to let them know that you saw their ad here, in AboveGround magazine.

A LOOK BACK

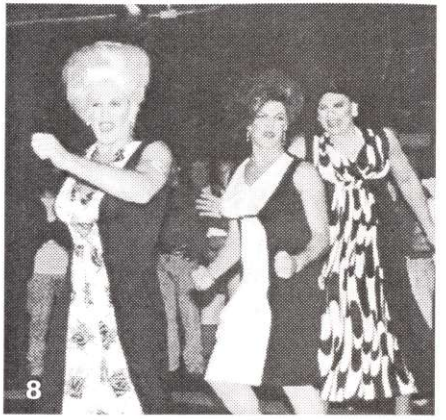
1

5

7

2

6


8

3

9

4

NATIVE AMERICAN PHILOSOPHY | THERAPEUTIC TOUCH
FEATHER
CHAKRA BALANCING | ENERGY WORK
(610) 974-8183
(610) 974-8183

1. Regine's Showcase at Diamonz raises $1000 for Breast Cancer Benefit
2, 3, 4. Participants at the 1st Annual benefit Drag Ball stop for our camera.
5. Fefe La Dada entertains the crowd at the Cartwheel in this fab outfit.
6. Monica Rey serves as MC of the 96-97 Miss Gay PA America Pageant.
7. Moist Maxi & Eva the Deva do their part in the AIDS Quilt benefit.
8. The "Bolognia Sisters," winners of the Dueling Divas competition.
9. Tinsel Garland nuzzles up with Glenn Hughes of the Village People.
10. Crowning of Rebecca Finn as Miss Gay Pennsylvania, America for 1997.
11. Jaguar, organizer of the Drag Ball during Quilt Benefit performance.

DEEP MUSCLE MASSAGE

Shiatsu - Reiki

Certified Massage Therapist
by appointment evenings & weekends

Call Gary
(610) 694-8756
leave message

COUNTRY BODY MASSAGE THERAPY

FOR A FULL BODY MASSAGE
CALL (215) 855-7502 FOR A NIGHT OR WEEKEND APT.

THERAPIST - MIKE

DONE IN MY HOME OR YOURS.

⑥ Coming Events

DATE	EVENT	LOCATION
Nov. 1	Parade of Costumes party	Cartwheel
2	LV Gay Men's Chorus Concert	call:437-1195
2	Damzels	Diamonz
4	Miss Cartwheel Pageant	Cartwheel
5	VOTE! VOTE! VOTE! VOTE!	VOTE!
6	Maxi Carter	Stonewall
8	Employee Talent Show	Rainbow Mt.
8	Crossdresser's Weekend	Rainbow Mt.
9	Glen Pritchard	Diamonz
9	Crossdress. Wknd/Lynn Thomas	Rainbow Mt.
9	Michael Ferreri	Stonewall
10	Autumn Tea / MCC of LV	call: 439-8755
10	Ladies 2000 Party	Cartwheel
10	Crossdresser's Weekend	Rainbow Mt.
13	Tinsel Garland	Stonewall
15	Military Party/Eric Stone	Stonewall
16	Tea Dance	Cartwheel
16	Lori Riccabono	Diamonz
17	LVGLTF Benefit Bingo	Diamonz
17	Straight Spouse Support Meet.	call:439-2253
20	Corrine Michaels	Stonewall
21	Noreen Zavorsky/ LV Lesbians	call: 253-5454
22	Large Flower Heads	Diamonz
22	Ladies Weekend	Rainbow Mt.
23	Ladies Wknd/Laurie Riccabono	Rainbow Mt.
23	Kate & CJ	Diamonz
23	Michael Ferreri	Stonewall
24	Ladies Weekend	Rainbow Mt.
24	The Dream Team Male Review	Stonewall
24	2nd Anniversary party	Cartwheel
26	LGLV Roller Skating	call: 432-5449
27	Pre-Thanksgiving Bash	Diamonz
27	Pre-Thanksgiving Day Party	Stonewall
30	Santa Saturday	Cartwheel
30	Kate & CJ	Rainbow Mt.
Dec. 1	The FACT Snow Ball	Hilton / A-town
8	ASC Benefit Xmas Bazaar	Diamonz

Note: The Coming Events section is provided as a voluntary service to the community. Due to the chance of typographical error, schedule changes, or inadequate source info we strongly suggest that you use it as a guide and call the individual organizations for more info and/or confirmation. Phone numbers can be found on page 26.

Weekly

SUNDAY
--KARAOKE / DIAMONZ / 9PM-2AM
--KARAOKE / STONEWALL / 10PM-2AM
--ELAINE PAXSON / CARTWHEEL
--SUNDAY TEA / CARTWHEEL / 4PM

MONDAY
--ALL AGE NIGHT / STONEWALL / 10PM-2AM
--DRAG SEARCH / CARTWHEEL / 11PM
--DragSearch Night / SELECTIONS / 11PM

TUESDAY
--KARAOKE / DIAMONZ / 9PM
--KARAOKE / SCARAB / 10pm-2am
--KARAOKE / SELECTIONS
--DART LEAGUE / CANDIDA

WEDNESDAY
--COUPON NIGHT / SCARAB
--POOL LEAGUE / CANDIDA 8PM
--MALE STRIPPERS / CARTWHEEL / 11:30PM

THURSDAY
--KARAOKE / DIAMONZ / 9PM-2AM
--KARAOKE / SCARAB / 10PM-2AM
--KARAOKE / CANDIDA / 10PM-2AM
--COUNTRY 2-STEP / Cartwheel / 8PM
--COUNTRY WESTERN / SELECTIONS
--POOL LEAGUE / DIAMONZ
--REQUEST DANCE / STONEWALL
--Bible Study of Homosexuality call:791-0716

FRIDAY
--MICHAEL FERRERI/CARTWHEEL
--Band, Request or Oldies Night / DIAMONZ
--KARAOKE / RAINBOW MOUNTAIN

SATURDAY
--ELAINE PAXSON / CARTWHEEL

The 1st Annual HOLIDAY BAZAAR

Sunday, Dec. 8, 1996

Diamonz Nightclub & Restaurant
1913 W. Broad St., Bethlehem, PA

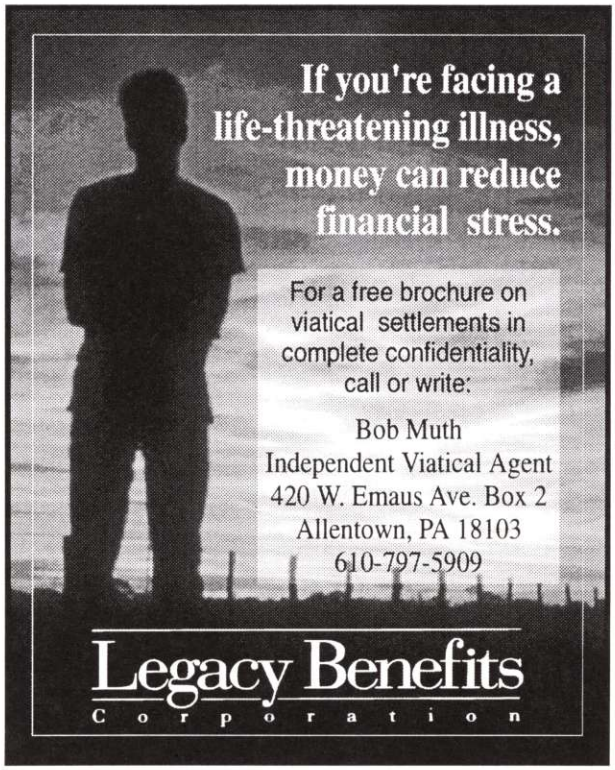
A Special Opportunity to Shop for Unique Gifts while Supporting a Great Cause! Also Music, Food and Fun!

A benefit for the AIDS Services Center

Don't miss your chance to get your picture taken with Santa!

It's Time to Shop!

To participate as a vendor contact Angie at (610) 317-8001



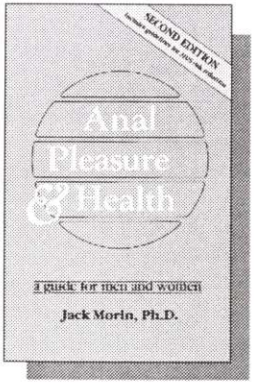
ROB-WIN press, inc.

ROB-WIN PRESS
IS A
FULL-SERVICE PRINTER
SPECIALIZING IN
FOIL STAMPING
EMBOSSING, AND
FOUR-COLOR PRINTING

(610) 776-1691 • FAX (610) 776-1433
691 N. TRUMP ST., ALLENTOWN, PA 18103

IN print

by William Benson



BOOK REVIEW: Anal Pleasure & Health: A Guide for Men and Women, by Jack Morin, Ph.D. San Francisco: Yes Press, 1986. 269 pages, $12.50

November is the birthday month of Ganymede, the most beautiful boy in the world. (If you aren't familiar with his name, you'll find some information about him in the previously reviewed books from September and October). Because of his unique beauty, he is one of the few mortals to be granted immortality by the gods. Although Ganymede could have written this book, even he could learn a lot from reading this month's selection; and so, it is to his honor that I dedicate this review.

This is an important book, particularly for "gay" men. It discusses a subject that many people find either shameful, embarrassing, and disgusting; or else amusing, trivial, and inconsequential. If you believe the former, you are in denial of a full and honest acceptance of the human body; if you believe the latter, you are expressing your emotional immaturity. Either way, negative feelings are understandable because of social and psychological conditioning.

Not only do we grow up with false "truths," such as homophobia, but we also grow up learning to hate ourselves as human beings. The negativity which society teaches us about denying the reality and beauty of the body is insidious and powerful. Many of the most pointed insults (none of which I can put in print as examples) relate to the anus, and/or the genitalia of men and/or women. But, in truth, there's nothing intrinsically "dirty" or "shameful" about the body. This is how God made us. Accept it!

This book addresses anatomical, sociological and psychological aspects relating to the anus in everyday life and in various forms of typical human behaviors. It is a work of nonfiction, a book to read from which to clear away feelings of guilt, shame, and denial. It promotes healthy, positive, responsible thoughts and behaviors. For instance, because of the denial and guilt which many people feel, many think that they need to use illegal or legal drugs (including alcohol). Jack Morin shows how such is really misguided thinking and behavior; he shows why it is misguided; and shows what to do in order to correct this unhealthy thinking and behavior. It also addresses specific issues and concerns with AIDS. This book is about being safe in every sense -- physically, mentally, and emotionally.

This book is about loving life, and having total self-acceptance (whatever "role" you might play) in a natural (rather than chemically induced) state. It is a book about respecting yourself, as well as respecting and being sensitive to others. Yes, this is serious reading, but it is written for "lay readers," not proctologists or other Ph.D's. And I warn you: for those who are looking for pornography or a "cheap-thrill," this is definitely the wrong book for you.

I hope that you will consider reading this book, and keep an open mind. For further reading: Scatalogic Rites of All Nations by John Bourke is the classic cross-cultural study in anthropology; and Life is Like a Chicken Coop Ladder by Alan Dundes is a thought-provoking critique of the seriousness of "insulting humor" by a folklorist. Until next time, happy trails to you!

Bored with the Lehigh Valley Scene?

Try something New!

MCC of the Lehigh Valley is sponsoring an afternoon

Autumn Tea

Sunday, Nov. 10th
3:30 PM - 6:00 PM

Social Hall of The Unitarian/Universalist Church
424 Center Street
Bethlehem, PA

Desserts & Beverages
Entertainment
$2.00 donation

For further Information
Please Call: (610) 439-8755

ADS THAT WORK

As Hard as You Do !

AboveGround

CALL: (610) 821-1321

DIAMONZ

THE GEM OF THE LEHIGH VALLEY

Pre-Thanksgiving BASH !

Featuring DeKuyper Specialty Drinks

Wednesday, November 27th

DANCE CLUB OPENS AT 9:00 PM

Lounge Entertainment

Saturday, Nov. 2 - DAMZELS
Saturday, Nov. 9 - GLEN PRITCHARD
Saturday, Nov. 16 - LORI RICCABONO
Saturday, Nov. 23 - KATE & CJ

ALL ACTS START AT 9:00 PM

EXPERIENCE

THE LARGE FLOWER HEADS

Playing the Hottest Tunes of the 60's and 70's

Friday, November 22

(Lower level - Dance Club)

1913 W. BROAD ST. ▽ BETHLEHEM, PA ▽ 610-865-1028

Liz OUT Loud

by Liz Bradbury

But ... I AM a woman!

What is it with the South? Occasionally people in Pennsylvania call me mister, but below the Mason- Dixon Line it's open season on women with short hair.

Last spring Trish and I did a big outdoor antique show in Charlotte, NC. Granted I had my summer hair cut, and I'm tall (and a bit bulky) but I do have at least two other prominent physical characteristics which are usually associated with women. It was rainy and muddy. Everyone was dressed in outdoor gear like mine but I swear they just wouldn't let me go into the ladies' restroom.

"Sir, excuse me, sir .... SIR." said a woman with big hair in a color not found in nature.

I turned slowly, naively believing that by pointing my two womanly "features" at her she would glean that it was indeed she who was mistaken. Not a chance.

"Sir, this is the LADIES' room!" said the magenta-haired woman indignantly.

I sighed, I made my voice sweetly feminine (I tried anyway) and replied, "Yes and I am, in fact, a woman."

Mrs. Magenta-head stared at me, moments passed, no light bulb went on. She was trying to think of a way to win this absurd argument and prove to me I was a man. Luckily she was paralyzed by the effort. I darted around her into a stall.

Has this happened to you? Well, no fear, we finally hit on the perfect solution. It's easy, cheap and essential when you really have to pee.

We bought bonnets. They don't even have to be covered with floral ornaments. They just have to have a bow in the back and be slightly silly looking. People figure, no self-respecting man would wear a silly hat like that, so this must be a woman. When I wear it, no one ever calls me sir or bars me from the ladies' room. It's a miracle.

The ultimate question is; should I be annoyed by this? After all I'm not hung up on gender misidentification. I wouldn't scotch tape a pink ribbon on a baby's head to ensure no one called her him, but this seemed different to me. Suddenly I understood, this is about conformity verses diversity.

Seventy percent of the people who insist I am a man are women in high heels, over 40 with teased hair and tons of make-up. When they finally figure out I really am a woman they usually say, "Well these days you can't tell". Which means, it's not my fault I can't tell, it's yours because you don't fit my preconceived stereotype.

Should I be angry? Yes! These people aren't just making an honest mistake . They're saying, "I have an antiquated concept of what a woman looks like and you don't fit my guidelines so there is something wrong with you therefore I have a right to treat you rudely." These people will harass anyone who's different from themselves. You can bet they think there's no room on earth for gay men and lesbians.

Well, It's time to tell Mrs. Magenta-head it takes all kinds of people to make a global community. We're all different, get used to it.

On a more sober note, please remember that Nov. 5 is election day. This is the most important election of this century for gay men and lesbians. A Democratic President, House and Senate will help ensure our rights.

Come in and Relax!

Everyone knows the Stonewall as the Valley's best place to be at night, but where do you go before the sun goes down?

Naturally, It's . . .

The MOOSE LOUNGE

	Great Happy Hours!	Great Food Specials!
MONDAY	9PM - 11PM	Pasta Night (6pm-1am)
TUESDAY	10PM - 12AM	Mexican Night (6pm-1am)
WEDNESDAY	6PM - 8PM	Wing Night (6pm-9pm)
THURSDAY	10PM - 12AM	Check Our Board For Today's Special Sandwiches and Dinners !!
FRIDAY	6PM - 8PM	
SATURDAY	6PM - 8PM	
SUNDAY	6PM - 8PM	

Whether you are looking for a place to Eat, Meet, Compete, or Retreat ... The Moose Lounge is the place to be!
- - - Look for our new menu coming soon!

28 N. TENTH ST., ALLENTOWN, PA 610-432-0215
(Directly above the Stonewall)

Society

by Bobby X!

There once was a man named Michael. He was an open-minded student at the local community college who felt that he fully understood the world and its' various social hierarchies and strata systems. He was, one evening, playing pool at the corner bar. A heterosexual bar. For you see, Michael was not the kind of person who fell in love with people due to their physical appearance. He was attracted to them for what they were on the inside. He did however, realize that he found the male body more pleasing to the eye than the female body. He often thought about having children. He fully recognized how wrong it would be to get involved with a woman and have children while he had the feelings of perhaps liking men. Michael was not a promiscuous man and he had only been involved in a few intimate relationships in his life. To get involved with a woman and have children with her might be a mistake he would later regret. And it may be, for lack of a better word, using that woman to get a

child – -an experience in life he may enjoy.

Well now, in the bar that evening, Michael was shooting pool alone in the back room when a physically attractive man walked in and asked if he wanted to shoot a game of pool. Michael accepted the challenge openly. He conversed with the gentleman who introduced himself as Connor, a professional person with a college degree. They drank a few bottled waters and after the game, which Michael won, he headed home for the evening. He thought it was cool to make the acquaintance and thought nothing more of the encounter.

A few days later, Michael went into the bar to shoot some more pool, alone again, and was surprised to see Connor there. They shot a few games of pool and Connor professed to Michael that he found him attractive. Michael said nothing and did indeed go home alone again.

Over the next week, he thought perhaps he should call Connor, seeing as how he had given him his number. He thought Connor seemed like a nice person and he would enjoy getting to know him better. He dialed the number and found it was a pager service. He entered his number and a few minutes later, Connor phoned him and said he would indeed enjoy spending some time with Michael and getting to know him a little better. He explained his professional position did keep him somewhat busy, but that he did allot himself free time from his occupation.

Over the next six months, Michael and Connor spent time with each other whenever Connor's schedule allowed. They did have an intimate sexual relationship. Michael realized he was in love with Connor and when he discussed this with him, Connor said he felt the same way for Michael. Michael asked Connor about the possibility of the two of them living together. Connor said this was impossible. Michael said he did not understand and Connor said he had a confession to make. Connor told Michael he was married and he was the father of two children. Michael was confused, shocked, angry, and hurt. Connor decided to make the situation clear for Michael. Connor said yes, he did love Michael and that he would love to spend the rest of his life with Michael. He confessed that a life with Michael was attractive to him in just about every aspect. Michael was more physically attractive to him than his wife and was more gratifying in every meaning. Yet, he could not leave his wife and be happy with Michael because of society! He explained that he would never be able to do the things with Michael that he could with his wife and children. He could never lean over the table in a restaurant and kiss Michael and tell him he loved him. He agreed with Michael that their relationship was not wrong, just unaccepted by society. Michael was angry at society. Why should the mass of people he did not even know stand in the way of their happiness? Michael felt that society was wrong and that someday their situation would be acceptable. He felt that two people loving each other could never be wrong!

Society is afraid of situations they do not understand. They turn that fear into something they can better accept. They either shun or ridicule such situations. This is wrong. Adolph Hitler oppressed Jews and the result was abominable. As John Lennon put it, "All you need is love." Perhaps, if more people thought and felt like Michael, the world could be free of prejudice and war and filled with happiness and harmony. . . . Just one person's perspective!

DRAG
Employee ~~Talent~~ Show
Friday, November 8
11:00 PM
NO COVER CHARGE !

KARAOKE !
Every Friday in November

CROSSDRESSER'S WEEKEND
Nov. 8-10
Featuring:
Vendors to help you find that perfect look!
Makeup, clothing, shoes, etc.
LYNN THOMAS
On Sat, Nov. 9

LADIES WEEKEND
Nov. 22-24
Featuring:
LAURIE RICCABONO
& Complimentary
1 hour Bar & Buffet
On Saturday, Nov. 23

Kate & CJ
Saturday, November 30

RAINBOW MOUNTAIN
RESORT
RD 8 Box 8174 • East Stroudsburg, PA 18301 • (717) 223-8484

To Your Health

by Dr. John Cochran

ENTHUSIASM

Enthusiasm is that something in your voice and being that sways another person's mind and action into harmony with your own.

Some people can become enthusiastic over little things -- a baby's smile, its first tooth, the way it says "goo".

Other people become enthusiastic about a work of art, a new book, a fishing rod, a gun -- whatever interests them greatly is inclined to evoke a degree of enthusiasm expressed without reserve.

Be happy, be joyous, be alive and show it. Smile, laugh or sing, and note the joy 'twil bring just letting other people know it.

Have something to do and do it. Even though the way is tough, go to it. Never let it get you down, smile away the wish to frown. If you quit, you'll likely rue it. You can win if you pursue it with enthusiasm.

The way to be miserable is to have so little to do that you have time to become sorry for yourself. Time wasted is life squandered to no avail. When one job is finished, find something else to do and go about it with such enthusiasm that others will catch the spirit and come to your aid. Music hath charm and so does enthusiasm. Be enthusiastic in your thinking, let enthusiasm rule the things you do and it will change your life.

Perhaps you will ask, "How can I be enthusiastic with a job like mine, especially when my health is poor to begin with. I hate my job". Hate, worry and fear are all negative factors that tend to pull you down. Even your health may be undermined by hate and worry, or by fear, so change your thought pattern. Put energy into your task, learn more about your job, do it for the good accomplished. If nothing more, be glad that what you do spares someone else from a similar fate. Doing things for others with enthusiasm makes the way easier for you.

Speaking of' health, do you know that health comes entirely from within? Do you realize that the only health you will ever have is what you release from the inward source of supply available to each individual'? Perhaps you wonder why this is true?

OUR BODY'S AMAZING WISDOM

Our body has a remarkable innate ability to live within our environment, resist disease and disorder, and perform millions of functions simultaneously and with great efficiency and wisdom. This automatic compensatory and balancing process is called homeostasis or "innate intelligence." Our body's ability to send specialized cells to an open cut to fight off an infection, raise the body's temperature, build a new wall, and carry away the debris is beyond all human comprehension. If we lost this remarkable ability we would all die, and all the known "miracle" drugs could not save us. The human body has its own built in "drug store" which produces antibodies, insulin, hormones, antihistamines, etc., and uses them wisely. While no one fully understands how these complex functions take place, scientists do recognize that the nervous system plays a vital role in homeostasis.

The blood vessels and capillaries in our body, strung end to end, would circle the world three times! If these capillaries were cut and laid out flat they would cover a football field. Our body is more sophisticated and complex than a major metropolitan city. It hums and explodes with chemical changes. The body also emits energy which can be seen with Kirlian photography. Every ninety days the body replaces its own warn blood cells with new ones.

The human heart which is the size of a fist, pumps over 2,000 gallons of blood a day, attaining speeds of up to sixty miles an hour. Furthermore, the body produces millions of red blood cells every second! The shape of a red blood cell is that of a bi-concave disc, which engineers say represents the best shape there is for a maximum surface exposure and stability when carrying oxygen.

The brain, which weighs about three pounds, has the capacity to internally integrate its various functions and create totally original ideas that no computer yet designed has ever been able to accomplish.

This is our amazing body! The same wisdom that created and maintains our body also heals it. This does not rule out the rational utilization of drugs and surgery, but we must rely on treatments which work in harmony with our body whenever feasible. Hippocrates emphasized the heeling power of nature and instructed, "Above all, do no harm." While some doctors may have lost sight of this great wis-

Laurent Michel
521 Linden Street
Allentown, PA 18101
610.433.7889

THERAPEUTIC MASSAGE

Caring • Effective • Focused

Professional Therapy

Sports Massage • Swedish Massage • Deep Tissue Massage

Make a Healthy Choice

• Relieve Stress & Muscular Pain
• Improves Circulation
• Increase Range of Motion & Flexibility
• Deeply Relaxing

NCBTMB

Laurent Michel, L.M.T.
Massage Therapist
Nationally Certified and Licensed • Member of the AMTA

By Appointment 610.433.7889
521 Linden Street Allentown, PA 18101

dom, doctors of chiropractic firmly adhere to this philosophy.

The chiropractor, by his unparalleled method, is able to locate causes of interference with body processes long before the usual symptoms manifest themselves! By chiropractic analysis of the back and vertebral column, the chiropractor is able to detect tension and irritation of important nerves which control the function of the body. "Short-circuits" of the nerve messages precede the development of symptoms of disturbance. The chiropractor is able by his technique to eradicate these "short-circuits" and restore normal function to the workings of the body.

Make sure your ad reaches the people who are looking for your services.

Advertise in

AboveGround

The Lehigh Valley's only gay and lesbian monthly publication of news, views, events and entertainment!

call:

(610) 821-1321

The Number You Need For Your Financial Needs

"Specializing in Gay and Lesbian Financial Issues and Same-Sex Couple Planning"

- Tax-exempt Investments
- IRA/401-K Rollovers
- Mutual Fund Investing
- Disability/Life Insurance
- Long Term Care Planning

AMERICAN EXPRESS® FINANCIAL ADVISORS

American Express Financial Advisors Inc.

(610) 395-6522
(800) 272-5855

Complimentary Consultation by Appointment

DENISE M. McKELVEY - ext.359
ANTHONY A. VOROS - ext.335
Personal Financial Advisors
Iron Run Industrial Park
7248 Tilghman Street
Allentown, PA 18106

© 1995 American Express Financial Corporation

There's Something Queer about Tuesday!

It's Gay & Lesbian ROLLER-SKATING!

Bring your skates & rollerblades or rent a pair for only $1.00

a benefit for

NOV '96
Tuesday, November 26
Skateaway Roller Rink
4500 William Penn Highway
Bethlehem, PA
$5 Admission
7:30pm - 10:30pm

DEC '96
Tuesday, December 17
Skateaway Roller Rink
Lehigh & MacArthur Rds.
Whitehall, PA
$5 Admission
7:30pm - 10:30pm

LEAGUE OF GAY AND LESBIAN VOTERS

LEHIGH VALLEY CHAPTER • (610) 432-5449

PAST/OUT

BY DAVID BIANCO

Who were some of the first openly gay elected officials?

In November 1974 Elaine Noble was elected a state representative in Massachusetts, and one month later Minnesota state senator Allan Spear revealed his homosexuality in a newspaper interview. Noble and Spear were the first openly lesbian and gay state legislators.

Noble ran as a Democrat for a seat in the Massachusetts House representing Boston's Fenway district. She narrowly won the primary and defeated her Republican November opponent with nearly 60 percent of the vote.

In office, she found herself torn between her goals as a legislator representing a mostly straight, elderly, and poor district and the demands of the gay and lesbian community that she be focus on "their" issues. In more than one occasion, Noble was accused of "selling out" and acting against the best interests of gays and lesbians. For example, in 1976, she flew to a fund raiser in San Francisco to raise money for the straight, pro-gay politician who was running against Harvey Milk for the California Assembly.

On the other hand, Noble did try (albeit unsuccessfully) to pass a statewide job-protection bill for gays and lesbians and certainly helped break down barriers and stereotypes among legislators in Massachusetts and nationwide. After she served two terms, the district lines were redrawn, and she found herself in the same district as her ally, then-closeted gay legislator Barney Frank. Rather than face off against Frank in a primary, Noble ran for the United States Senate in 1978, but she lost the primary to future presidential contender Paul Tsongas.

In part inspired by Noble's November 1974 election, Spear granted a front-page interview to the Minneapolis Star-Tribune soon after his re-election to a second term as a state senator in which he indicated that he was gay. This announcement was not met with universal acceptance. One state senator indicated during a committee meeting that he thought the state should appropriate money to help Spear get his homosexuality "cured." Nonetheless, many of Spear's fellow senators were supportive, although most expected him to lose his 1976 bid for re-election. Spear's Republican opponent in that race spent so much time denying that homosexuality was an issue in the race that it became clear that it was. Spear won with nearly 70 percent of the vote.

In the years that followed, Spear made a name for himself fighting for strict drunk-driving laws and expanded child care services. He also pushed for a gay-rights bill, which met strong opposition from religious conservatives but was ultimately passed in 1993. By that time, Spear had risen through the ranks of Minnesota's senate to become that body's president, a position he still holds in 1996.

David Bianco, M.A., teaches gay and lesbian history at the Institute of Gay and Lesbian Education in West Hollywood. His first book, Modern Jewish History for Everyone, was recently published by History for Everyone. He can be reached care of this publication or through his E-mail address: AriBianco@aol.com.

Extensive experience in

Donor Insemination

working with both gay and straight couples

Bruce I. Rose PhD, MD

Fertility and Reproductive Health Services
2200 Hamilton Street
Suite 105
Allentown, PA 18104
(610) 776-1217

The Straight Spouse Support Network

by Michael S. Beamer

I was recently asked to write this article detailing the formation of the Straight Spouse Support Network for the Lehigh Valley and Philadelphia areas. For myself, I returned to the Lehigh Valley from Nowhere, Virginia in mid-June after my wife came out to me in March. The devastation of being separated from the woman I loved, finding out she is a lesbian, and the fact that all the friends I knew while growing up in Bethlehem had moved from the area, made me a miserable wreck. I read a notice about the gay pride festival in Allentown and I decided to go in hopes of finding a PFLAG booth. Well, I succeeded in finding the booth and in getting the information for their meetings. At the first meeting I felt a great release because I was able to cry and to talk without fear of being judged. Some-

FACT

TENTH ANNUAL

Hors d'oeuvres

Main Course

Chilled Lemon Linguine

Garden Salad with choice of
Cracked Peppercorn Parmesan and
Raspberry Vinaigrette Dressings

Rolls and Butter Florets

Chicken Wellington*

Roasted Redskin Potatoes

Green Beans and Baby Carrots
in Tarragon Butter

Dessert

Cornucopia Cookie Cup filled
with White Chocolate Mousse

*Vegetarian Entree available upon request

10th Annual Snowball

TICKET ORDER FORM

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

TEL. NO. _____ FAX NO. _____

NUMBER OF TICKETS @ $50 EACH ____ ENCLOSED IS MY CHECK FOR $ _____

MC/VISA # _____ EXPIRES _____ / _____

SIGNATURE _____

I CANNOT ATTEND, HOWEVER, ENCLOSED IS MY TAX DEDUCTIBLE CONTRIBUTION TO FACT FOR $ _____

PLEASE SEAT ME WITH THE FOLLOWING:

_____ _____

_____ _____

_____ _____

FACT

P.O. BOX 1028
ALLENTOWN, PA 18105
(610) 820-5519

The official registration and financial information of Fighting AIDS Continuously Together may be obtained from the Pennsylvania Department of State by calling toll free, within Pennsylvania, 1 (800) 732-0999. Registration does not imply endorsement.

SNOW BALL

World AIDS Day

December 1, 1996

COCKTAILS BEGINNING AT 6:00 PM
MUSIC BY KATO • BLACK TIE OPTIONAL

Allentown Hilton

FACT

FOR TICKETS AND INFORMATION
P.O. BOX 1028, ALLENTOWN, PA 18105 • 610 820-5519

thing, however, was still missing. As much as the PFLAG members were compassionate and concerned, they still could not satisfy my need to talk with someone who was going through, or had gone through, the same experience as me.

Luckily, a PFLAG member had the number of a woman who had been trying for three years to form a support group. Despite minor trepidation at not quite knowing how to introduce myself, I called her the minute I got home from the meeting. I imagined getting a wrong number and making a fool of myself. I believe I said something like "Hi, my name's Mike, and the same thing happened to me that happened to you." If she did not know what I was talking about, I was ready to say, "we were both born on days ending in 'y'," and I would hang up. Indeed, the closet of gays and lesbians hides more people than just gays and lesbians. Fortunately, Laurie knew instantly what I was talking about and we spoke for quite a while.

We arranged to meet so that we could discuss life, the universe, and forming a straight spouse support group. She knew another straight spouse living near Philadelphia and had been in contact with several others, but nothing substantial had yet formed. The three of us met for dinner, and I knew that even if it was a group of only three, the group would be exceptionally helpful in pulling me through this difficult time. Through the months of July and August the three of us met socially several times, called each other on the phone, and discussed the group.

For whatever reasons, fate was with us. More people started calling Laurie, and by mid-August we knew there were enough people interested in a group for us to have our first "formal" meeting. Laurie arranged with Vivian Cooperman, Philadelphia PFLAG president, to use their facilities after their PFLAG meeting in September. So Laurie contacted everyone she could, made up flyers, and sent them to churches, counselors, etc., ... and we waited for the 29th of September.

Well the 29th came, and we had our first meeting. I think everyone in the group would agree it was a success! We introduced ourselves, talked about our expectations for the group, and expressed our fears, hurt, anger, confusion, etc... about the way our lives have been changed by being a straight spouse. This meeting was not a session of gay-bashing, but of people helping other people to cope with and to understand a horribly difficult and misunderstood human experience. Some of us cried, most felt angry, we even laughed a bit, but everyone sensed great relief at finding the group. The feelings we expressed were intense and shared by everyone – which was the key. The bond we have is strong, instant, and extremely real. We shared our lives in an hour and a half, and we felt comfortable with each other.

Everyone in this world has the right to try to be happy. This group, I believe, is aimed at helping the straight spouse try to find his or her way back to happiness. We also wish to reach out to other straight spouses who might feel that there is nobody else out there who is going through the same thing. If you know of anyone who is straight and is or was married to a gay, lesbian, or bisexual partner, please inform them of this group. We fully realize that the coming out process is extremely difficult for anyone, and it also often creates extreme guilt feelings for a gay, lesbian, or bi spouse. The gay community has built up a wonderful network for helping and supporting people when they come out, and our group in no way wants to take away from that. We are asking, however, that straight spouses are not shoved into their own closet because they have married a gay, lesbian, or bi partner.

If you know anybody in this situation, please let them know about our group so they can get support. Please do not assume that because a certain amount of time has passed that your straight spouse, or ex-spouse, is "all right" with the situation. Please tell them about our group and let them decide if they are "all right." Even if they are at peace with the situation, they probably would want to help others cope. Also, there are groups of married gays, lesbians, and bisexuals in existence. Where are their spouses? They deserve to be able to talk with someone as well. Please, help us help each other.

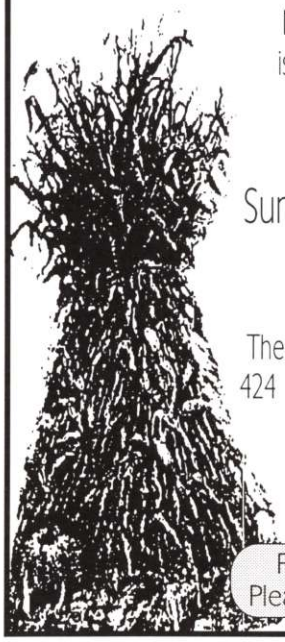
For more information on the Straight Spouse Support Network, contact the Lehigh Valley or Philadelphia chapters of PFLAG or call:

Michael S. Beamer
610-867-1910
beamsplace@enter.net

Laurie Fehr
610-439-2253

Bored with the Lehigh Valley Scene?

Try something New!



MCC of the Lehigh Valley is sponsoring an afternoon

Autumn Tea

Sunday, November 10th
3:30 PM - 6:00 PM

Social Hall of
The Unitarian/Universalist Church
424 Center Street, Bethlehem, PA

Desserts and Beverages
Entertainment
$2.00 donation

For further Information
Please Call: (610) 439-8755

Music Review

by
C.Robert Frank

Artist: **John Mellencamp**
Title: **Mr. Happy Go Lucky**

Admittedly, I've never really been a fan of John Mellencamp. I pretty much found his music to be inconsequential. Truthfully, the only thing that inspired me to listen to Mr. Happy Go Lucky is the fact that Junior Vasquez co-produced. Shockingly, the combination of Mellencamp/Vasquez works quite well. Junior adds chunky hip-hop beats and tweaked noises under John's usual down-home guitar arrangements. "Circling Around The Moon" is the most striking (and haunting) example of how well this trance-like combination of talent works. While Mr. Happy Go Lucky may not score big points with Mellencamp fans, it will add a major trump card to Vasquez's deck. The album almost sounds like a very good Bon Jovi album. If nothing else, it is worth a listening to.

Artist: **Incognito**
Title: **Remixed**

Incognito's successes have been quite few and far between. Critically praised over the years, they have not really had too much luck with album sales. Remixed moves the act from the jazz section into the dance aisle. A move that has proven perfect for the club scene, and may now be perfect to keep their record deal alive. "Always There," admittedly the group's biggest hit, is represented twice; the classic Morales mix and a new masters At Work remix. Roger S strikes his magic spark under three Incognito hits, most notably "Givin' It Up" which got quite a bit of club play.

If diva-driven house is your favorite, Incognito Remixed is a must for your collection.

The State of Dance Music

submitted by "An Anonymous DJ"

When it comes to any sort of listening pleasure, such as dance music, we tend to review it, then we either; 1) accept it 2) just think of it as run-of-the-mill, or 3) dislike it. Dance music is considered by many to be a type of listening that makes one feel good, and there are many who enjoy it regardless of what sort of message the artist is portraying. There are many others who can only identify with a particular song if it is played over and over again, or if it is played on the radio to the point that the music is so repetitious that it is almost mind-numbing.

Main Stream radio stations control, or try to control, our knowledge of music, especially dance music. The only type of dance music that is played on today's radio is what is called "High Energy" or "Progressive Dance." This is fine, but radio stations are "brainwashing" the environment with this type of music. And it seems to be working, because the only type of dance music that seems to pack dance

DJ's TOP TEN

DJ : Michael DeCero
Club: CARTWHEEL / New Hope

1. Who Is He And What Is He
   ME'SHELL NDEGEOCELLO
2. Fired Up
   FUNKY GREEN DOGS
3. It's All Coming Back To Me Now
   CELINE DION
4. No Frills Love '96
   JENNIFER HOLIDAY
5. It's All Coming Back To Me Now
   CELINE DION
6. Land Of The Living
   KRISTINE W
7. The Child Inside
   QKUMBA ZOO
8. Spinning That Wheel
   GEORGE MICHAEL
9. Can U Feel It
   3RD PARTY
10. Do You Really Love Me
    LONNIE GORDON

DJ : David Petrilla
Club: STONEWALL / Allentown

1. Fired Up
   FUNKY GREEN DOGS
2. The Child (Inside)
   QKUMBA ZOO
3. Everything
   SARAH WASHINGTON
4. Shout
   STAXX OF JOY
5. Won't Give Up My Music
   PULSE
6. The Real Thing
   WORLD WIDE MESSAGE TRIBE
7. It's All Coming Back To Me Now
   CELINE DION
8. One And One
   ROBERT MILES
9. Wombo Lombo
   ANGELIQUE KIDJO
10. Ohno
    DANNY TENAGLIA

floors is this strain that has been thrust down everyone's throat. Some current examples of this are LaBouche, Real McCoy, Cher, and Ace of Base.

Lyric's play an important role on occasion to certain songs, but it really isn't the lyric's that we dance to, it's the beat of that particular song. A prime example of this is a song called "The Bomb" by The Bucketheads. There are only six words, repeated over and over, but nobody seems to realize it. This is because of one, and only one, reason ... it was played on main stream radio stations. Club DJ's received their copy of this record four months before it was played on the radio, and attempted to play it ... without results.

If people would just open up a little bit and listen more to the beat instead of the lyrics, a greater appreciation of dance music could be achieved.

VIDEO

VJ : Michael Leidy
Club: STONEWALL / Allentown

1. You Don't fool Me (rmx)
   QUEEN
2. Cry India
   UMBOZA
3. Spinning The Wheel (rmx)
   GEORGE MICHAEL
4. Born Slippery (bonus rmx)
   UNDERWORLD
5. Jazz It Up
   REEL 2 REEL
6. Professional Widow
   TORI AMOS
7. The Child Inside (extended mix)
   QKUMBA ZOO
8. Can't Help It
   HAPPY CLAPPERS
9. Keep On Jumpin'
   TODD TERRY
10. One More Try (red mix)
    KRISTINE W

by Jacqueline Marish, M.A.

Holidays or Hell Days

—reprinted from AboveGround, December, 1996

November and December are approaching with their special days. By the time you read this article, you may have already experienced the Thanksgiving holiday. Now for the December ones! That magical time when people are easily doing good deeds, in happy moods and easy smiles. That mystical time of gracious self-giving, festive foods, light, music, song and family gathering. OOPS - reality isn't always like the greeting card images for many of us. The winter holidays can be stressful, spiritually empty, emotionally draining and a family-feud frenzy. Holiday sights, sounds, and smells can bring depression, anxiety and adjustment difficulties. Commercial propaganda contrasted with reality creates a strong challenge in finding a solution to holding on to our sanity while finding purpose in celebration.

One way to rejoice is to find a reason to rejoice during this special holiday time. We can focus on our own personal sacred journeying through the year and celebrate whatever truly deserves celebration in each of our lives. As we perceive our life as a sacred journey, we recognize that the only approval of our journey can come from ourselves and from whatever sacred power we choose to believe in. We can stop, reflect, be gentle with ourselves and nurture our soul's commitment to life.

People who come from dysfunctional families, and who of us doesn't, find that when it comes to holiday stress there's no place like home! If we choose to spend the holidays with family-of-origin members, it is important to keep a hold on rational thought. Don't get expectations up, don't hope that it's going to be better than last year. Hopefully it will be, but if you have that as an expectation you're very likely to be disappointed. Stay clear on the fact that you made the decision to spend time with these people you call family. Realize you're only going to spend a few hours with them. If you travel out of town to see them, get a room at a local hotel rather than spending all your time in the same household.

Being single can make you long for a miracle drug to get you through to mid-January. The holiday season can make people evaporate and if you're not out at work you do not have a daily work support system available. If you have developed a chosen family, you will be able to spend holiday time with people who truly know you, accept you and affirm you. That may be more than others get when they return to family-of-origin members. Chosen-family members can be creative in devising rituals, prayers, songs, foods that speak to the sacredness of the chosen-family rather than society's traditions.

If chosen-family is not an option, please consider celebrating the sacredness of the season by giving the gift of service. Call one of our community's many groups and offer your time. You may be able to deliver food to HIV infected/affected families, visit a hospitalized person or do the holiday gift shopping for someone unable to make the trip to the jammed parking lots at the crowded malls. Call AIDS Outreach, FACT, MCC, Grace Covenant or AIDS Services Center. Service to others is a way for you to bless the holidays, and you will find yourself blessed in the process.

If you're concerned about your ability to get through the holiday season without serious emotional difficulties an/or dependence on alcohol/drugs, consider getting professional help. Seeking the advice, guidance and listening skills of a therapist does not mean that you're locked into therapy sessions for the long term. Sometimes talking out feelings and fears in a safe environment with an objective person can be enough to give you a sense of clarity and balance. This is a sacred time of year, this is your sacred journey, and you need to celebrate your own sacredness. Make these your holy days.

Hope Ministries

Rev. BOB FORTE 610-791-0716

Full Ministerial Services, Specializing in "Family" Concerns

Wedding Ceremonies • Holy Unions • Baptisms • Funeral Services

Steve Black

Attorney

Vice Chair
League of Gay & Lesbian Voters

1322 Center Street
Bethlehem, PA 18018
610-865-7890

333 S. Camac Street
Philadelphia, PA 19107
215-735-0852

AboveGround
E-MAIL
ABOVEGRND@aol.com

Knockout NOVEMBER

LADIES 2000 PARTY

SUNDAY
November 10
3:00 PM

- *Complimentary Buffet*
- *1 Hour Open Bar (3-4pm)*

November 15, 16 & 17

The Cartwheel welcomes

THE MEN OF CAMP NEW HOPE

Featuring

TEA DANCE

Saturday, Nov. 16 - 4:00pm

Sunday, Nov. 24

The Cartwheel proudly presents our ...

2nd Anniversary CELEBRATION

Don't Miss Out on the Fun!

SANTA SATURDAY

Saturday
November 30
1:00 PM

A Great fundraiser from
The Bucks Motorcycle Club!!

It's all happening at...

CARTWHEEL

ROUTE 202 **NEW HOPE PA** **215-862-0880**

of course!

Theatre & Performing Arts

Albright College
"Little Murders"
November 8-16
For info call: 921-7547

Cedar Crest College
"Come Back To The Five And Dime, Jimmy Dean, Jimmy Dean"
November 15-24
For info call: 610-606-4608

Kutztown University
"Ain't Misbehavin' "
November 14
For info call: 683-4511

Main Street Theatre
"Always ... Patsy Cline"
Continuing through Nov. 17
For info call: 215-536-3545

Moravian College Theatre
"Some Canterbury Tales"
November 8-16
For info call: 610-861-1489

Muhlenberg College
"Cabaret"
November 8-17
For info call: 610-821-3335

Pennsylvania Playhouse
"The Mikado"
Nov. 22 - Dec. 8
For Info call: 610-865-6665

Touchstone Theatre
"From The Ashes"
Continuing through Nov. 9
For info call: 610-867-1689

19th Street Theatre
(Autumn Film Series)
"Heavy"
November 3-9
"Secrets & Lies"
November 10-16
"Brother of Sleep"
November 17-23
For Info call: 610-432-8943

Dykes with Tykes

by Michelle Zimmer

National coming out day is over, but for gay and lesbian parents coming out to your young children is a constant process, or so it has been for Kay and I. When we first became a couple the youngest of our kids was one, the oldest was four. One, three and four year old kids are not interested in the mechanics of a homosexual versus heterosexual relationship. They were more interested in where everyone would sleep and whether or not they would have to share their toys.

We explained to them what we felt they could grasp at that age; that we were a family, our family happens to have two moms and that we would all treat each other with love and respect just as the members of any other family would. Christine, our one year old at the time, of course was unable to understand any of that but she has been the child that has most easily adapted because this is all she knows. She doesn't remember a life when Mommy lived with Daddy. The boys, on the other hand, have had more adjusting to do and as they get older are more quick to ask questions.

Like most parents we are feeling our way along whenever the subjects of relationships, sex and reproduction come up. Kay and I do not always agree on how to best handle these questions. Kay, being raised Catholic,

Homer Dodge Farm

"The Best in Dog and Horse Boarding"

163 Still Valley Road
Phillipsburg, NJ 08865
(908) 454-3333

GOOSEY GANDER
CATERING & DELI

1017 E. Emmaus Ave. • Salisbury Twp.
Phone: 791-5333 • Fax: 791-5157

DAVID A. SOSKA

- All Occasion Party Trays
- Hot or Cold Buffet Catering
- 101 Varieties of Hoagies & Sandwiches

leans towards "don't tell them too much too soon." Often times when I am starting to explain something I see this look of dread come across her face as if she is thinking, "Oh no, what is she going to tell them." I tend to lean towards the up front, tell them what they want to know and don't get freaked out about it approach. This is easier said than done sometimes and I think Kay actually enjoys watching me try to keep my cool when certain questions are asked.

For example, the other day in Meijers Brent asked me what tampons were used for. I proceeded to stumble through a simplistic explanation about how women's bodies always stay in a state of preparedness in the event they should become pregnant, and that their bodies must therefore go through a monthly cycle in order to have clean blood available. Kay was looking at me with a look of disgust as was an old lady who was trying to shop for toilet paper. Maybe that was more information than a seven year old needs to know, I'm not sure. His only response to me was "Man I'm glad I'm not a woman!" I wanted to say, "You don't know the half of it!"

I don't know, maybe I am too clinical, but it surprises me how much they do retain. The other day while showing Christine a picture of me as a child, I overheard Brent tell Christine that he was in the picture too. "No Brent," I interrupted, "you weren't even born yet." "But Mom," he said in a very exasperated voice, "the egg I came from was in you then, you just didn't know it yet!" Wow! How do you argue with that logic?

Its amazing how kids can be so knowledgeable and yet so naive. They really do perceive things on a different level than adults do. Not so very long ago, I was driving all of the kids and their friend Ashley in our boat of a station wagon, when the topic of marriage came up. Ashley was explaining to the other kids that if you kiss someone you have to get married. To this Christine piped up and said "Then Mommy and Michelle have to get married because they kiss." As I was sinking down in the driver's seat the kids were dissolving into fits of giggles. Ashley, in her authoritative voice said "Oh no! Girls can't marry girls and boys can't marry boys." At this point I straightened up and gave them my best mother's rear-view-mirror eye. "Boys can marry boys and girls can marry girls," I told them. "They can not!" Ashley argued.

Now, Ashley's mother and I have been friends forever but because she is straight I was not sure how she'd have felt about my lecturing to her daughter about the benefits of union ceremonies and the evils of society's heterosexist attitudes about marriage, so I opted for the love angle. I explained that mostly men and women get married but that when women fall in love with other women or men fall in love with other men, they often decide to promise to stay together and take care of each other forever. They make a commitment to each other just like when men and women get married to each other. Thankfully we were arriving at Ashley's house about this time to drop her off. "Well they can't have babies!" Ashley gave me her parting shot as she got out of the car. "We'll talk about that next time," I said under my breath.

I actually was surprised by Christine's observation about Kay and I kissing. We try not to do anything explicit in front of the kids. It is a fine line to walk. We want them to feel that they are growing up in a loving atmosphere but we do not want to give them any ammunition for their homophobic dads. Kay and I hug a lot and we sit closely, sometimes we hold hands but that is about it. Of course by having lesbians as moms they are bound to be exposed to things that other kids don't experience. This year when we went to Gay Days a nearby amusement park they saw lots of people holding hands and kissing and they were even exposed to some men in drag. When one person floated past us in hot pink chiffon and silver lame' heels Christine tugged on my arm and said "Michelle, did you see that man in a dress?" "Yes, honey, I did." I took a deep breath preparing to launch into my explanation of drag and Kay had her "Oh Shit, what's she going to say" look on her face, when Christine surprised us both by continuing "his shoes were really pretty!" I guess maybe our kids are becoming jaded.

Even so, they haven't yet learned the fine art of knowing when to speak out and when to keep their mouths shut. One day while in the Hallmark store Karl looked over my shoulder and exclaimed loud enough for everyone to hear, "For The Woman I Love...Who are you buying that for, my mom?" My first thought was to shush him but what kind of message would that send him. Instead I answered "Yes its for your mom," as I turned three shades of red and silently longed for the days when he couldn't yet read. There are times when the only way to show them that they shouldn't be ashamed of our rather unusual family, is by example. Sometimes, though, that is hard for us grown-ups to do because we know how society is, the kids don't know that yet. Sadly, I know the day will come when they have to learn that lesson too. And when that time comes the explanation for society's cruelty will be much harder to give than any sex explanation could ever be.

Coming Soon to

The Civic Theatre of Allentown

A Christmas Carol

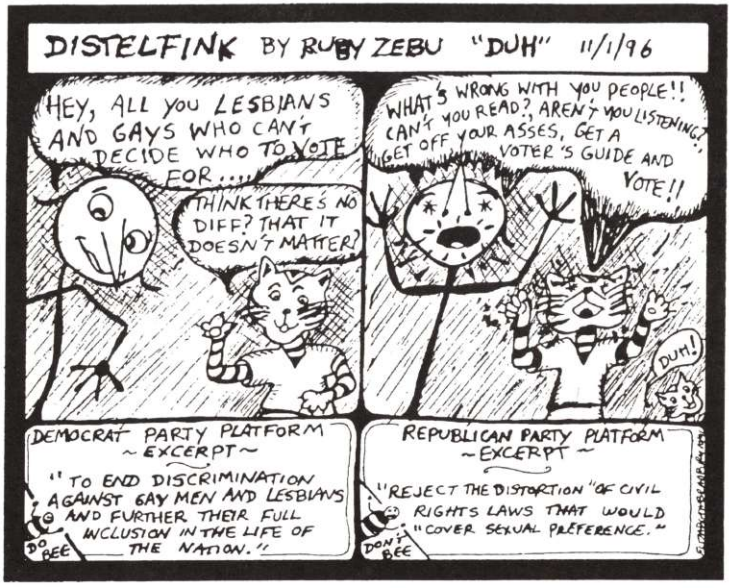
December 6-21

ANGELS IN AMERICA

April 11-26

Call 432-8943 for tickets

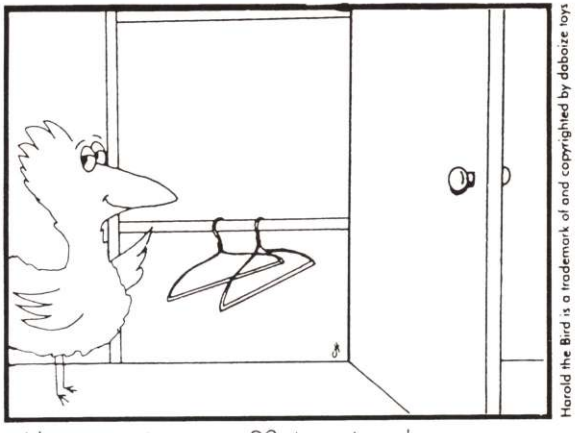
COMICS



THE DRAG ZONE...

JET DRAG...

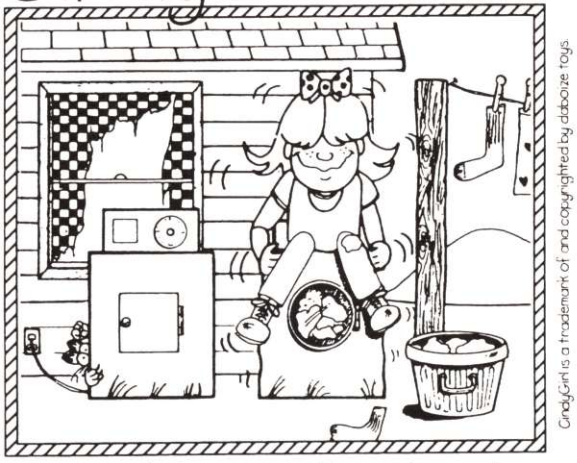
Harold the Bird™



Harold the Bird is a trademark of and copyrighted by daboize toys

Harold shows off his low hangers.

CindyGirl™ the down-home country lesbian



CindyGirl is a trademark of and copyrighted by daboize toys

CindyGirl discovers the spin cycle.

Introducing...

The Premier of a Fabulous Calendar for 1997 !

Month after Month of

FEMALE IMPERSONATORS

a fund-raiser for the WYOMING VALLEY AIDS COUNCIL

F E A T U R I N G

Ms. January	: CC RAE
Ms. February	: BRENDA STARR
Ms. March	: PENNI KANDY
Ms. April	: NANCY MONTIEL
Ms. May	: KARLINE LEWIS
Ms. June	: MOIST MAXIE
Ms. July	: SOPHIE TUCKER
Ms. August	: JOY
Ms. September	: MAXI CARTER
Ms. October	: EVA THE DEVA
Ms. November	: RIO DIAMOND
Ms. December	: TINSEL GARLAND

ON SALE FOR ONLY $12

Coming Soon to a location Near You!

Various Celebrity Autographs

available on these dates & locations:

Sat., Nov. 9 : STONEWALL in Allentown
Sat., Nov. 16 : SELECTIONS in Wilkes-Barre
Sat., Nov. 23 : PARAGONS in Scranton
sat., Nov. 30 : THE BUZZ in Scranton

LIMITED COPIES AVAILABLE !

QUEER Science

By Simon LeVay, Ph.D.

There are several movies that depict queer romances in single-sex boarding schools. Forever top of the list must be the 1932 German classic, Maedchen in Uniform, in which the teenage heroine falls in love with a (much older) teacher. Male examples of the genre include Lindsay Anderson's 1968 film If.... As with Maedchen, this film depicts an age-disparate homosexual relationship, although it isn't the film's central focus. The older of the two schoolboy lovers is a "prefect," while the younger is a "fag" - the confusing Britishism for a pubescent peon who toasts crumpets for the prefects' afternoon tea, etc.

Although both these films treat same-sex desire in a positive way, they could be said to bolster a commonly held opinion, which is that attendance at single-sex boarding school influences young people toward homosexuality. In fact there were plenty of voices, over the years, warning that if this kind of educational arrangement was allowed to continue the British Empire (or the German Reich) would collapse, a victim of the non-reproduction of its ruling classes. And even today at least one sex researcher, Heino Meyer-Bahlburg of Columbia University, believes that single-sex schooling is one route to adult homosexuality.

The truth of this hypothesis was tested in the British National Survey of Sexual Attitudes and Lifestyles. This eight-year survey, whose results were published in 1994, was based on questionnaires completed by a randomly selected sample of about 19,000 men and women. About 400 of the men and 350 of the women had attended single-sex boarding schools. These men and women were indeed much more likely to have experienced gay sex than the rest of the sample. Among the women who had been to boarding school, five percent had had a sexual experience involving genital contact with another female, compare with less than two percent for the women who had not been to boarding school. Among the men, the corresponding figures were ten percent and four percent. Clearly, attendance at single-sex boarding schools greatly increases the chances that a person will have dipped at least once into the honeypot of gay sex - presumably while he or she was in that same-sex environment.

But quite different figures emerged when the researchers asked about the men and women's current sexuality. Only about one percent of the men, and 0.5 percent of the women, had had same-sex genital contact during the last five years, and these figures were virtually the same for those who had boarding school experience and those who had not. So, the "situational" homosexuality associated with boarding schools has no particular influence on what people do in adult life. These results are contrary to what one would expect if role-modeling, recruitment, or the nature of one's early sexual experiences played a significant role in establishing patterns of adult sexuality.

How come, you may ask, had only one percent of the men and 0.5 percent of the women engaged in gay sex during the previous five years? Is this part of the no-sex-please-we're-British syndrome? Apparently not, for those percentages corresponded almost exactly to the percentages of the interviewees whose sexual feeling were mostly or entirely homosexual - there don't seem to be legions of sexually inactive British queers any more. And quite similar figures have been reported for a number of other countries, including the United States. So it looks as if gay people are not as common as we sometimes imagine. Under-reporting may of course be a factor, but the famous "ten-percent" figure, which is based on a misinterpretation of the 1948 Kinsey report, really needs to be retired.

As for the British Empire, it's an under-appreciated fact that queers played a leading role in its expansion and maintenance. Oppressed by the stuffy heterosexuality of Victorian drawing rooms, or threatened by the sodomy statutes, they headed for the bush in droves. Diamond hunter Cecil Rhodes, General Gordon of Khartoum, nursing pioneer Florence Nightingale, Boy Scouts founder Lord Baden-Powell - they all sought to perpetuate dormitory life on savannah, desert, or the high seas.

Simon LeVay, Ph.D., attended Dulwich College boys' school in London, England. He is the author of Queer Science (MIT Press, 1996) and the co-author (with Elisabeth Nonas) of City of Friends. He is also the co-founder of the Institute of Gay and Lesbian Education in West Hollywood. He can be reached care of this publication or at SLeVay@aol.com.

BAY LEAF

R•E•S•T•A•U•R•A•N•T

NEW AMERICAN & ASIAN CUISINE

NOW ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS!

935 HAMILTON MALL • ALLENTOWN, PA • 610-433-4211

Jacqueline Marish, M.A.

Counseling

Recovery
A.C.O.A.
Spiritual
Assertiveness
Feminist Issues

1322 Center Street
Bethlehem, PA 18018
610.865.1006

FAMILY HEALTH
CHIROPRACTIC, J.C. & REHAB

Quality Chiropractic Care, By Choice!

PWA - HIV WELCOME

Dr. John O. Cochran
1874 Catasauqua Road
Valley Plaza
Allentown, PA 18103

phone: 610-264-4949
fax: 610-264-3699

ELIZABETH BRADBURY ANTIQUES LTD
610-432-5449

WE BUY AND SELL STERLING AND OBJECTS OF VERTU

VISIT US AT:
THE ALLENTOWN ANTIQUE SHOW
AG HALL
DEC. 6-7
BOOTH #13

Horrorscoops by Evil Esther

AQUARIUS
Jan. 20-Feb.18

Let go a little this month and enjoy the fun that you will be having. Too much control can destroy the creative effort you have been nourishing all these years. Trust others, they are NOT out to get you! Capricorn is in your corner.

PISCES
Feb.19-March 20

Too much partying at the end of last month may have out you on the "disabled" list, but have no fear, you can still be the center of attention, just take it easy! You aren't as young as you used to be! Romance flourishes around full moon.

ARIES
March 21-April 19

Watch your back this month. There are people out to make your life miserable, but you are one step ahead of them. It isn't a bad idea to lay low for a little while, but don't go into seclusion. Cancer native is the one to blame!

TAURUS
April 20-May 20

Domestic arrangement improves this month. Key is trusting in him to do the right thing. Support your friends in their endeavors, you might even find a niche somewhere along the way. Don't worry about your job, there is a better one on the way!

GEMINI
May 21-June 20

This month marks an important anniversary. Just remember what it is! Gifts from the heart are the most valued, and don't forget that presentation is important. Be creative and you will always hold the heart of the one you love.

CANCER
June 21-July 22

Charity starts at home. Give to others this month, but not money. Understanding, patience, support and affection are most needed. Remember, they were there for you at one time. Paying back that Karmic debt is not really all that hard.

LEO
July 23-Aug.22

Pulling into yourself won't solve what makes you unhappy. When did you stop trusting your friends? They can't tell you which path to take, but sometimes it is just FEELS better if you verbalize your concerns. No choice is not a choice.

VIRGO
Aug.23-Sept.22

Your family is your anchor, and will be your focus this month. Make time for yourself and "the little one" before the Holidays gobble up all of your energy. Keep your mouth shut this month when you feel like screaming, silence is strong!

LIBRA
Sept.23-Oct.22

Work, work, work! Efforts pay off in more than one way this month. It may seem like you are not having any fun, but you will be smiling all the way to the bank. Sacrifice will be small in the long run.

SCORPIO
Oct.23-Nov.21

Don't stress about all the things you have to do this month, they will all fall into place effortlessly. Let the things that bother you roll off your back this month. Things are going to change this month. Let it happen.

SAGITTARIUS
Nov.22-Dec.21

Step back, girlfriend! You aren't "all that and a bag of chips"! It is better to be humble this month, or you will make a lot of people very unhappy. Remember, this life is supposed to be fun. No need for conflict at every turn.

CAPRICORN
Dec.22-Jan.19

Lots doing for you this month. Remember to take time to take care of your health. This is as good as it gets...for now! There are things to be done, but make sure you don't lose focus on the things that really matter.

Community Resources

Bars / Clubs

ALLENTOWN
Candida
247 N. 12th St.
610-434-3071

Stonewall & Moose Lounge
28 N. 10th St.
610-432-0215

BETHLEHEM
Diamonz
1913 W. Broad St.
610-865-1028

EAST STROUDSBURG
Rainbow Mountain
RD 8 Box 8174
717-223-8484

HARRISBURG
B-TLS
891 Eisenhower Blvd.
717-939-1123

Neptune Lounge
268 North St.
717-233-3078

Stallions
706 N. 3rd St.
717-232-3060

NEW HOPE
Cartwheel
Route 202
215-862-0880

Raven
385 W, Bridge St.
215-862-2081

READING
Scarab
724 Franklin St.
610-375-7878

If your organization would like to be listed in AboveGround, Call (610)821-1321 or write P.O. Box 1656 Allentown, PA 18105-1656

Bars / Clubs

WILKES-BARRE/ SCRANTON AREA
Club Paragon
222 Wyoming Ave.
Scranton, PA
717-969-6399

The Buzz
133 N. Washington Ave.
Scranton, PA
717-969-0900

Selections
45 Public Square
Wilkes-Barre, PA
717-829-4444

AIDS Related Organizations

AIDS Outreach
112 N. 5th St.
Allentown, PA 18102
610-435-8424

AIDS Services Center
60 W. Broad St.
Suite 205
Bethlehem, PA 18108
610-974-8701

Allentown Health Bureau -HIV testing
245 N. 6th St.
Allentown, PA 18102
(contact David Moyer)
610-437-7742

FACT
P.O. Box 1028
Allentown, PA 18105
610-820-5519

FACT Bucks County
P.O. Box 616
Buckingham, PA 18912

Latino AIDS Outreach
610-861-6845

Wyoming Valley AIDS Council
P.O. Box 2677
Wilkes-Barre, PA 18703
717-823-5808

We Care
P.O. Box 1013
Wilkes-Barre, Pa 18703
717-824-1007
717-779-5155

Religious Affiliations

Grace Covenant Fellowship
247 N. 10th St.
Allentown, PA 18102
610-740-0247

Hope Ministries
Rev. Bob J. Forté
610-791-0716
24 hrs.-leave message.

Integrity
610-395-1785
610-758-8642

Metropolitan Community Church of the Lehigh Valley
Uniterian Universalist Church
424 Center St.
Bethlehem, PA
610-439-8755

Phoenix Independent Outreach Ministries
Rev. Joél S. Diehl, DD,MsD.
610-437-9447 leave message

Zen Buddhist Sangha
Ongoing meditation meetings
610-559-8136
leave message

Community/Social/Support Organizations

Berks Gay & Lesbian Alliance
P.O. Box 417
Reading, PA 19603-0417
610-373-0674

Gay Men of the Lehigh Valley
Bethlehem, PA
610-439-8755

GLORA
Gays & Lesbians Of Reading & Allentown
P.O. Box 1952
Allentown, PA 18105

League of Gay & Lesbian Voters
Lehigh Valley Chapter
P.O. Box 20781
Lehigh Valley, PA
18002-0781
610-432-5449

Community/Social/Support Organizations (cont.)

Lehigh Valley Gay & Lesbian Task Force
P.O. Box 20253
Lehigh Valley, PA 18002
610-868-3388

Lehigh Valley Gay Men's Chorus
P.O. Box 20712
Lehigh Valley, PA 18002
610-740-0247
610-821-0578

Lehigh Valley Lesbians
Bethlehem, PA
610-253-5454

Live and Let Live, Gays & Lesbians in A.A.
Meetings Weds. 8PM
St. Mary's Episcopal Church
Front & Windsor Sts., Reading

North Eastern Pennsylvania TransGender Assoc.
P.O. Box 3624
Allentown, PA 18106
E-mail: GendrFrend@aol.com
610-821-2955

P-Flag
Memb. Info: 215-368-2473
Newsletter: 215-234-4049
Support: 610-820-9838

PRIDE of the Lehigh Valley
P.O. Box 20804
Lehigh Valley, PA 18002
610-770-6200

Renaissance
Education Assoc., Inc
P.O. Box 2122
Harrisburg, PA 17105-2122
717-780-1578

Velvet Spikers
volleyball-tennis
P.O. Box 21862
Lehigh Valley, PA
18002-1862
610-434-2966

Q'Zine: A Weekly Queer Audio Magazine • Sundays at 8:00 PM with Keith Brand & Robert Drake
88.5 fm WXPN - Philadelphia
88.1 fm WXPH - Harrisburg
104.9 fm WXPN - Lehigh Valley

MALE FRIENDS

GWM 38 6' 200lbs Seeking Local GWM 30-40 Years Old for Lasting Friendship or Monog Relationship. I Do NOT do Drugs. I Enjoy Bowling, Swimming, Baseball, Dining Out, Travelling and Quiet Times. Call 610-437-1235. Ask for Bill.

A worthy friend and Companion. Down-to-earth, fun, Nice GWM 5'8", 53, 165#, non-smoker. Avoid drugs, drunks, freeloaders, & bars. Hoping to find nearby Robust, Fit, younger GWM to establish Friendship & Fun Times, even open to possible monog/equal/partner/lover. 610-867-4707. North of Bethlehem.

FOR SALE

Listen to Professionally mixed Music at Home ... just like out at the Club!!
Dance Tapes for All Partiers!
Over 20 tapes to choose...
...From Classic Disco to House.
Call: DJ CHRIS
For catalog
610-435-9383

APARTMENT - RENT

APARTMENT FOR RENT
1-bedroom apt. in quiet NE Bethlehem. LR, DR, full kit., bath. Newly carpeted. Private entrance, parking. Plenty of storage.
Apt. adjoins 1840 brick farmhse. on half-acre landscaped yard. Private patio, pool privileges. Rent $475/mo. plus electric and heat. security deposit $475.
Call (610) 691-7653

1 Bedroom centrally located Apt with Unique design & Laundry Fac. Secure Building. Avail. Oct 1. $435 / Mo. + Util. Sec. dep., Credit Approv., and Refs. Required. No Dogs. Call 610-434-6067 after 5PM for Appt.

REAL ESTATE - SALE

PROPERTIES FOR SALE ALLENTOWN

- 13th St. 2 Unit & Garage
GI 11,760
- Cedar St. 2-Unit
GI 12,852

ASKING 52 - 58K / Prop.
Consider Some Financing
Call: Jim
610-433-4122

Victorian Beauty
Big, beautiful, bright and airy w/ stained & beveled windows, loads of oak wdwrk, Mag kit w/ 42in cab, sub-z ref., Portuguese tiles, tons of counter space. frplce, blt-in china cab, 5bdrms 2ba. $99,500 Call Deb at John Monaghan Express Mrtg
610-266-7777

SERENE WOODED LOT
pool, deck. 2,000 sf home in immaculate condition. 2 car garage, brick F.P.
Easy commute to Philadelphia & NJ. $129,900
Call Elaine McCambridge at RE/MAX Real Estate
610-770-9000

HELP WANTED

Local Dance Club Soliciting Tapes for Club Oriented Disc Jockey. Professional, DJ's with Club Exp. Only. Versatility in programming & crowd awareness a Must. To submit tapes for Audition, contact Bob at: 610-432-0215 11AM-4PM.

High Volume Dance Club looking for Barbacks for weekend evenings. Barback positions only. Contact Bob at 610-432-0215 11am-4pm.

CLASSIFIED ORDER FORM

☐ male friends ☐ female friends ☐ help wanted ☐ services
☐ for sale ☐ messages ☐ roommates ☐ wanted ☐ pets
☐ real estate-rent ☐ real estate-sale ☐ misc ☐ other_____

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15

cost of lines____X____number of issues=_____
Anything submitted to AboveGround must be received by the 15th of the month to be published in the following months issue. Anything received after that date will be held over to the next issue.
Name(optional)_____
Mailing Address_____
Phone(optional)_____

RATES

1-4	lines	$ 5.00
5-10	lines	$10.00
11-15	lines	$15.00

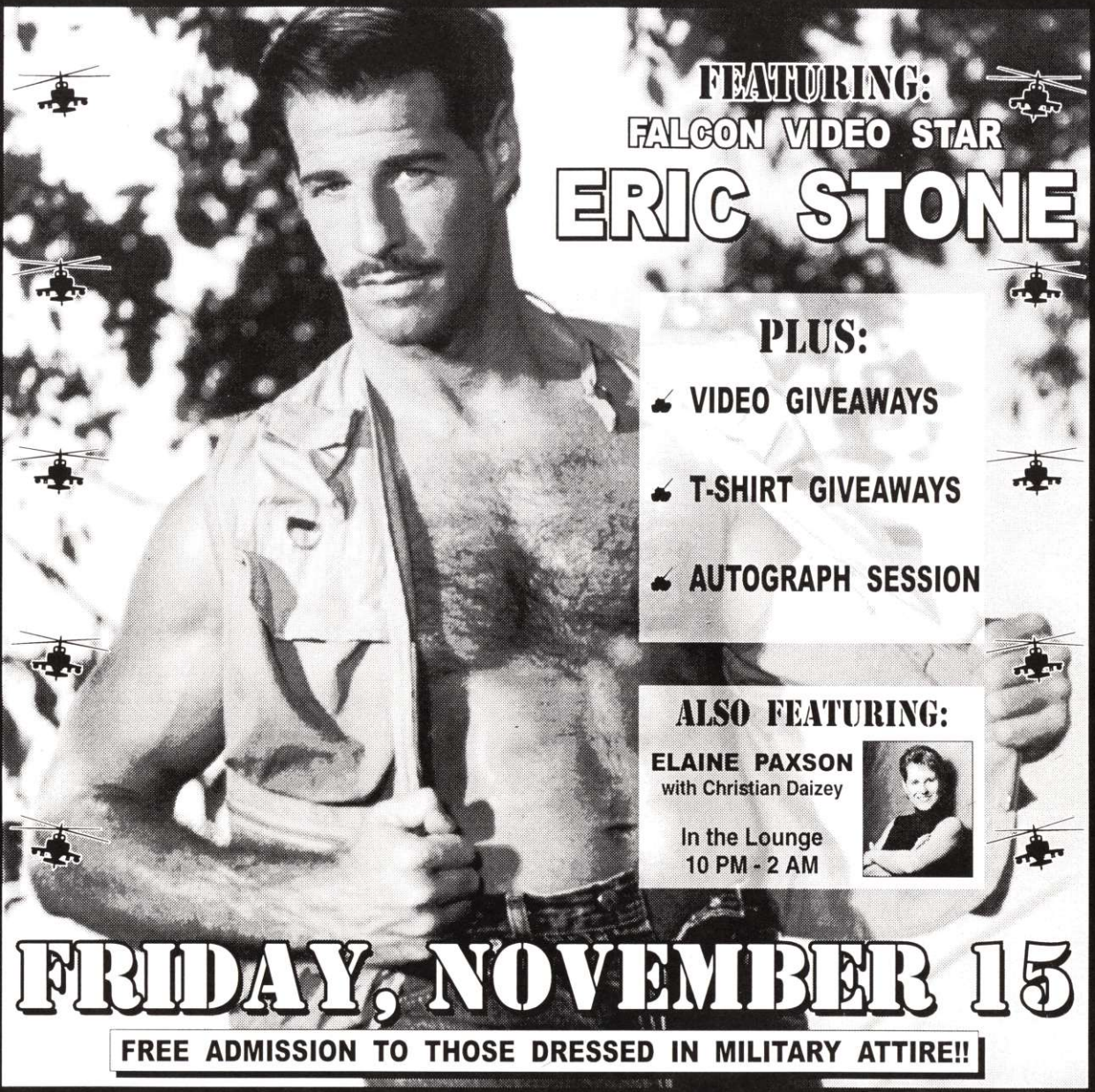
INSTRUCTIONS
Fill out the boxes at left exactly as you would like your ad to appear. Leave a space between each word. Check the heading you would like to have your ad run under. Calculate the price based on number of lines and send check or money order made payable to "COBALT BLUE" along with form to :
AboveGround
PO Box 1656
Allentown, PA 18105-1656

AboveGround reserves the right to edit ads as needed or to refuse any ad for any reason. You must be 18 or older to place or respond to any ad.

**If you would like a full-issue-copy of your ad, include $1.50 for P&H

THE ANNUAL

MILITARY PARTY



FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 15

FREE ADMISSION TO THOSE DRESSED IN MILITARY ATTIRE!!

STONEWALL

28 NORTH TENTH STREET - ALLENTOWN, PA - 610-432-1215